



Written Statement of
Sandi Kanemori
Interim Executive Director
Hawaii Technology Development Corporation
before the
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism

Thursday, February 27, 2025
1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

In consideration of
GM512
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee Nominee, Jaclyn Kaina, for a term to expire 06-30-2028

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to **support** the confirmation of Ms. Jaclyn Kaina to the Board of the Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation.

HTDC is honored to support Ms. Kaina as her experience and years of leading the Kauai Economic Development Board (KEDB) brings a wealth of knowledge in workforce, community growth, economic diversification, and innovation that align with HTDC's mission. Her ability to collaborate with various stakeholders across public and private sectors has been instrumental in advancing and bringing to life needed projects that enhance Hawai'i's economic landscape and local community.

Her commitment to serving on HTDC's Board is a testament to her passion in continuing economic development advancement throughout all islands. We very much look forward to working with Ms. Kaina. Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments and I encourage your favorable vote on her behalf.



MS word Testimony of Craig Nakanishi
Chair
Board of Directors of the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation
before the

Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism

THE HONORABLE LYNN DECOITE, CHAIR
THE HONORABLE GLENN WAKAI, VICE CHAIR

Thursday, February 27, 2025
1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

Governor's Message 512

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the
Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation,
Gubernatorial Nominee, JACLYN KAINA, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.**

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members:

I appreciate the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of the nomination and confirmation of Jaclyn Kaina to serve as a Member of the Board of Directors for the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation ("HTDC").

Ms. Kaina has been a very valuable member of HTDC Board during her interim appointment providing valuable neighbor island perspective and much needed knowledge on the resources, abilities, and available neighbor island opportunities that will assist HTDC far into the future as we forge ahead to diversify our State economy through the development, support, and application of technology to enhance and better the lives of all who live in Hawaii. She brings together a perspective that all of Hawaii is in this together in the journey to generate exciting jobs and opportunities for residents of all islands.

In her role as Executive Director of the Kaua'i Economic Development Board, she has demonstrated her commitment to promoting economic growth by supporting local businesses, empowering youth, and fostering innovation that contributes to the overall economic development of Kaua'i. In my discussions with Ms. Kaina, she has shown how her experience on Kaua'i can be applied to develop and promote technology in the broader context of Hawaii as a whole.

I respectfully request your support in confirming Ms. Kaina to the Board of Directors of HTDC.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on Governor's Message 512.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Hale o nā Luna Makaʻāinana

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
415 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

Written Testimony in Support of GM No. 512

Jaclyn Kaina

Before the
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism

Thursday, February 27, 2025

1:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism. I respectfully request your favorable consideration of Governor's Message No. 512, appointment of Jaclyn Kaina to serve as Board Member, Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation (HTDC).

As the current Executive Director of the Kaua'i Economic Development Board (KEDB), Jaclyn's experience will be tremendously beneficial to the Board of HTDC. Her decade-long work within KEDB has provided her with the ability to collaborate with community members in promoting the growth and diversification of our economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Ms. Jaclyn Kaina to serve on the Board of the HTDC.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dee Morikawa".

Daynette "Dee" Morikawa
Majority Floor Leader
House of Representatives, 17th District

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

NALANI BRUN, DIRECTOR



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR
REIKO MATSUYAMA, MANAGING DIRECTOR

Testimony of Nalani Brun
Director, Office of Economic Development
Before the
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism
February 27, 2025; 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference
In consideration of
GM 512

Subject: Letter of Support for the Confirmation of Jaclyn Kaina as Gubernatorial Nominee to the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation

Honorable Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

I am honored to submit this letter of support for the confirmation of Jaclyn Kaina as the Gubernatorial Nominee to the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation. Ms. Kaina has been an invaluable leader in the County of Kauai, where she currently serves as the Executive Director of the highly successful Kauai Economic Development Board. Her dedication and tireless efforts to diversify Kauai's economy have made a lasting impact on our community.

Ms. Kaina has been at the forefront of youth workforce education, particularly in the creative industries, and has played a vital role in advancing the academies programs on Kauai. Under her leadership, the Kauai Economic Development Board has spearheaded numerous initiatives, including the operation of the Kauai Creative Technology Center, which has served as a hub for fostering innovation and entrepreneurship. Additionally, her organization has collaborated extensively with the Office of Economic Development on Kauai and the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, helping to strengthen and expand opportunities within the agriculture, creative industries and technology sectors.

Her expertise, leadership, and unwavering commitment to Kauai's economic growth make her an exceptional candidate for this position. She is a true asset to our community, and her contributions will undoubtedly benefit the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation. We take great pride in endorsing her nomination and strongly encourage her confirmation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you require any further information.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKA'I

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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Testimony of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

Thursday, February 27, 2025
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of
GM 512

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the
Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee,
JACLYN KAINA, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.**

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai and members of the Committee.

I support the confirmation of Ms. Jaclyn Kaina to the Board of the Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation.

Jackie has proven leadership experience with the Economic Development Alliance Hawai'i, Hawai'i Workforce Development Board, Kaua'i Workforce Development Board, and the Kaua'i Economic Recovery Strategy Executive Team, just to name a few. She also has an educational background in business administration and organizational leadership and has been a pillar in Kaua'i's business and technology community.

At the Kaua'i Economic Development Board, Jackie oversaw the successful implementation of the Kaua'i Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, is a key driver of organizational growth and innovation, and executes the organization's strategic plan.

I believe that Ms. Kaina's experience in economic development and organizational leadership will be a great asset to the Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer my support.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
OFFICE OF THE COMPLEX AREA SUPERINTENDENT
KAUAI SCHOOLS
3060 EIWA STREET, ROOM 305
LIHUE, HAWAII 96766

February 25, 2025

Subject: Letter of Support for the Nomination of Jaclyn K. Kaina to the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) Board GM512

Dear Hawaii Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the nomination of Jaclyn K. Kaina to the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC). I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Jaclyn for nearly 10 years as the Kapaa High School's Principal and as Kauai's Interim Complex Area Superintendent.

Ms. Kaina possesses a unique blend of skills and experience that make her an ideal candidate for this important role. Specifically, I have been consistently impressed by her ability:

- **Strong leadership in implementing the Kauai Economic Development Board's operations, and policies and executing KDEB's strategic plans.** More specifically, KDEB works closely with the Kauai Complex Area high schools in creating our academies to better prepare our students to be globally competitive and locally committed.
- **Proven leadership abilities:** Ms. Kaina continues to successfully unite Kauai's business and community leaders to collaboratively develop our high school pathway programs. The focused work addressing partnerships, internships, mentorships, and advisory boards, are coming to fruition per Jaclyn's leadership and vision. Her leadership is instrumental in bringing together the key players in supporting our future leaders and workforce.
- **Commitment to the growth of Hawaii's tech sector.** The Kauai Economic Development Board remains consistent in building all aspects of our economic vision. Technology is a key part of this vision and is very evident in our daily work with Jaclyn and her team as they demonstrate their dedication to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in our state.

Jaclyn K. Kaina remains that highly motivated, collaborative, strategic thinker with a strong commitment to serving the community. She possesses excellent communication and interpersonal skills, and I am confident she will be a valuable and effective member of the HTDC Board. I believe that Ms. Kaina's vision, experience, and dedication will be a tremendous asset to HTDC as it continues to support the growth and development of Hawaii's technology industry. I wholeheartedly recommend their nomination without reservation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daniel S. Hamada".

Daniel S. Hamada
Interim Kauai Complex Area Superintendent

AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor



KEITH T. HAYASHI
Superintendent

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
WAIMEA HIGH SCHOOL
9770 TSUCHIYA ROAD
PO BOX 339
WAIMEA, HAWAII 96796
PHONE: (808) 338-6800 FAX: (808) 338-6807

February 25, 2025

Aloha,

I write this letter in support of GM512 and Jackie Kaina who is seeking to serve on the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC).

As the executive director of Kauai Economic Board (KEDB), Jackie has been instrumental in connecting our school and all of our students with opportunities to gain valuable work-based learning experiences. She has helped to build our grade 9-12 college and career continuum that directs specific activities and activities for each grade level to be carried out on campus among various content areas as well as with our business and community partners.

Jackie would be an excellent addition to HTDC as she is always looking for ways to improve economic and educational outcomes for all residents on Kauai. With the West Kauai Tech Center located within walking distance from our school, we have been the beneficiary of several of these initiatives.

I wholeheartedly recommend Jackie for the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation.

Mahalo nui,

Mahina Anguay
Principal, Waimea High School



Hawaii Agriculture Research Center

94-340 Kunia Road, Waipahu, HI 96797

Ph: 808-621-1350/Fax: 808-621-1359

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

GM512 GUBERNATORIAL NOMINATION FOR JACLYN KAINA

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 27, 2025

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robbie Melton, I was a member of the business community on Kauai since 2019

I strongly support the Gubernatorial nomination of Jaclyn Kaina to serve on the Board of the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation.

Ms. Kaina serves as the executive director of the Kauai Economic Development Board. KEDB is a business membership organization and supports the Kauai County Office of Economic Development, providing economic development activities and programs. The organization manages the West Kauai Creative Technology Center that hosts several important organizations and programs.

When I met Jackie, she was the program manager for KEDB. Under her direction, she planned and organized many events related to entrepreneurship and business growth. She has a keen ability to work with community organizations and business partners. She has organized economic summits and has been active in supporting the Hawaii's Digital Divide and internet equity program. She is very in tune with the technology industry trends and supporting innovation.

As the executive director, she works in all aspects of the KEDB board of directors and has demonstrated excellent leadership. She serves on many business committees and works with a broad range of companies. She also serves on other boards and is well versed in board of director operations.

The Hawaii Technology Development Corporation would benefit from Jackie's leadership and would bring representation of the Neighbor Islands to the HTDC Board. There is a lot of technology and innovation happening on Kauai and while it is a small island there is a lot worth taking note. Jackie Kaina would represent the business community well.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of Jackie Kaina.

Testimony of Catherine P. Awakuni Colón
Before the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism
Thursday, February 27, 2025
1:00 P.M.
Conference Room 229 and Videoconference

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

On Governor's Message No. 512, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, JACLYN KAINA, for a term to expire on 06-30-2028.

Aloha Chair DeCoite and Members of the Committee:

My name is Catherine Awakuni Colón and I am testifying my personal capacity in **support** of the appointment of Jaclyn Kaina to serve as a member of Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC).

Ms. Kaina, who now serves as the Executive Director of the Kauai Economic Development Board, has years of experience leading economic development efforts on Kauai. Since I lead a sister economic development board on Oahu and serve with Ms. Kaina on the board of the Economic Development Alliance of Hawaii, I have had many occasions to work with Ms. Kaina as we navigate the implementation of the State's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy approved in 2023.

I have found Ms. Kaina to have great integrity, to be a quick and strategic thinker, and to possess a genuine interest in and talent for engaging and supporting our community. Ms. Kaina's years of training and experience working on economic development and workforce development strategies on Kauai is especially helpful, as the voices of Kauai residents can be shared through her participation at HTDC.

I respectfully request that you recommend approval of Ms. Kaina's nomination as a member of HTDC. Thank you for the opportunity to support G.M. No. 512.

GM-512

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 12:07:40 AM

Testimony for EDT on 2/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellen Ching	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senator DeCoite and Members of the Committee on Economic Development and Tourism,

My name is Ellen Ching and I am submitting this testimony in **strong support of Jackie Kaina**.

I have personally and professionally known Jackie for the past nine years. After a 30 year career as the Executive Director of a non-profit organization on Kauai, I retired. About a year later, I was asked to work at the Kauai Economic Development Board (KEDB) to primarily write a major foundational grant for the Creative Technology Center. That is where I met Jackie, she had just started with KEDB about a year earlier. We shared an office.

Although, Jackie was new to the non-profit world, when I left about 10 months later, I knew that she had all of the skills, ability and heart to be the next leader of KEDB. The only thing she lacked was confidence. Her track record speaks volumes. When she was finally appointed as the Executive Director in 2022, she had already single-handedly rescued the organization from years of mismanagement and nursed it back to a vibrant, fiscally-sound organization that is actively engaged, contributes to our community and plays a vibrant and unique role on Kauai.

As a Board Member of the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation, I have little doubt that she will contribute greatly to it's mission of fostering innovation, workforce development and providing capital which dovetails so closely with her work at KEBD. For these reasons and more, I ask you for your support and thank you for your consideration.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Ellen Ching

P.O. Box 3241

Lihue, Hawaii 96766